



## ROLE DESCRIPTION & SUGGESTED PROFILE OF WORLD SCOUT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

*Approved by the World Scout Committee in September 1995 and last updated by World Scout Bureau in January 2024*

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### 1. OVERVIEW OF WOSM STRUCTURES

The World Scout Committee (WSC) has a central role in the governance of the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM). The WSC acts on behalf of the World Scout Conference between its meetings and implements its decisions, recommendations, and policies. The WSC is therefore vested with significant powers of oversight, appointment, budget, relationship, and organisation. This requires the WSC to be effective, efficient, accountable, and transparent.

The separation of operational responsibilities allows the WSC to perform its governance role. The WSC supervises the management of the World Scout Bureau (WSB) and appoints its Secretary General. In addition, it establishes an operational framework of volunteer working groups which, together with WSB staff, deliver activities in line with the WSC's strategic guidance.

The WSC is accountable to WOSM as a whole. The WSC must communicate, report, and involve Member Organizations to ensure a high level of transparency and scrutiny of decisions taken between the meetings of the World Scout Conference.

### 2. MEMBERSHIP

#### 2.1. Voting Members of the WSC

There are twelve (12) Voting Members of the WSC. They are each elected for a three (3) year term of office and may stand for re-election for one additional term.

#### 2.2. Ex-Officio Non-voting Members of the WSC

The following are non-voting, ex-officio members of the WSC:

- Secretary General of WOSM
- Treasurer
- Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson of each Regional Scout Committee
- A member of the Board of the World Scout Foundation

### 3. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

#### 3.1. Constitutional functions of the WSC

Article XIII.1 of the World Constitution stipulates that:

*"The WSC is the executive organ of the World Organization. Its members shall consider the interests of the Movement as a whole and shall neither consider themselves, nor be considered, as representing any particular Member Organization or Region."*

Article XIV.1 describes the functions of the WSC as follows:

- To act on behalf of the World Scout Conference between its meetings; to give effect to its decisions, recommendations and policies; and to represent it at international and national events.*
- To promote the Scout Movement throughout the world by means of visits, correspondence, training courses and other appropriate action.*
- To advise and assist Member Organizations in carrying out the purpose, principles and method of Scouting.*
- To recommend the admission of National Scout Organizations applying for membership, and to suspend provisionally the membership of a Member Organization.*
- To designate Accredited National Scout Organizations.*
- To prepare the agenda and procedure of the meetings of the World Scout Conference, giving consideration to suggestions from Member Organizations, and appoint the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson(s) of the World Scout Conference.*



- g) *To appoint the Secretary General of the World Organization, and to appoint his Deputy or Deputies upon a recommendation of the Secretary General; and to supervise the management of the World Scout Bureau.*
- h) *To approve the annual budget and financial statements of the World Scout Bureau.*
- i) *To accept the responsibility for the raising of additional funds.*
- j) *To approve the constitutions or other laws governing Regions.*
- k) *To appoint the Treasurer.*
- l) *To appoint Chairpersons of sub-committees and working groups on the recommendation of the Chairperson of the WSC.*
- m) *To grant consultative status to such organizations as may be of assistance to the Scout Movement.*
- n) *To decide upon granting of awards for services to the World Scout Movement.*
- o) *To coordinate links with all organs of the World Organization.*
- p) *To secure compliance with the Constitution of the World Organization by all organs.*
- q) *To ensure that risks facing the World Organization of whatever nature are assessed and appropriate control measures put in place.*
- r) *To call for an extraordinary meeting of the World Scout Conference in accordance with Article XII where required.*
- s) *To consider plans and strategies for the World Organization and make appropriate proposals to the World Scout Conference.*
- t) *To approve the purchase/lease of real estate for use or occupation by the World Organization and ensure that the title is registered in the name of the World Organization according to legal requirements.*
- u) *To follow-up on the execution and evaluation of the programmes/activities of the World Scout Bureau.*
- v) *To receive yearly consolidated audited reports from the World Scout Bureau.*
- w) *To liaise and promote good relationships with the World Scout Foundation and receive its annual plans and strategies.*
- x) *To approve the creation and supervise the management of all legal bodies created on behalf of the World Organization.*
- y) *To supervise the organization of World Scout Events.*
- z) *To exercise other functions resulting from this Constitution.*

### **3.2. WSC meetings**

- In a non-World Scout Conference year, the WSC meets formally twice a year, usually in March and September. A meeting usually lasts three full business days (normally over a weekend + Friday).
- In a World Scout Conference year, the WSC meets four times:
  - Two full business meetings normally (i.e. when the Conference is held in July/August) in March and November.
  - One business meeting at the venue on the day preceding the World Scout Conference.
  - A special three-day meeting focused on inducting the newly-elected WSC, normally held in October.
- WSC meetings are usually held at the WSB Global Support Centre in Kuala Lumpur but at the discretion of the WSC may be held at other locations, budget permitting.
- The provisional agenda and related supporting documentation are sent to all WSC members in advance of each meeting.
- In addition, virtual meetings of the Steering Committee (Chairperson, two Vice-Chairpersons of the WSC and the Secretary General) are held regularly.

### **3.3. WSC substructures**

According to Article XVI.6 of the Constitution, *“the WSC may establish, on a permanent or ad hoc basis, such subsidiary committees or other organs as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions.”*.

In practice over recent trienniums, the WSC has established an operational framework of volunteer



groups that, in conjunction with the WSB, deliver the objectives of the approved Triennial Plan. In addition, the WSC also has five Standing Committees directly supporting its governance responsibilities (Audit, Ethics, Finance, Constitutions, and Honours & Awards). The majority of operational framework and Standing Committee meetings are held virtually, in-person meetings are held if required, budget permitting.

### 3.4. WSC Expenses Policy

In accordance with Resolution 2002-10, WSC members attending WSC and sub-committee meetings are entitled to request reimbursement of their travel and accommodation expenses, in keeping with the [WSC Expenses Policy](#).

## 4. STANDING ORDERS OF THE WSC AND ITS SUBSTRUCTURES

As a consequence of Article XVI.5, the WSC has adopted its own Standing Orders. These outline the processes and procedures which govern the daily operations of the WSC and its substructures, including membership, meetings, relationships with other entities etc. The Standing Orders are available to all Member Organizations and are reviewed and approved by each incoming WSC.

To fully understand the operations and duties of the WSC, it is highly recommended that candidates carefully review the current version, which is [available here](#).

## 5. WORLD EVENTS

- The host of the **44<sup>th</sup> World Scout Conference** in 2027 will be decided at the World Scout Conference in August 2024.
- The **26<sup>th</sup> World Scout Jamboree** will be held in Poland from 30 July to 8 August 2027. The Host of the **27<sup>th</sup> World Scout Jamboree** in 2031 will be decided at the World Scout Conference in August 2024.
- The **16<sup>th</sup> World Scout Moot** will be held in Portugal from 25 July to 3 August 2025. The Host of the **17<sup>th</sup> World Scout Moot** in 2029 will be decided at the World Scout Conference in August 2024.
- The WSC usually appoints a person to liaise with the hosts of these events.

## 6. Regional Scout Conferences and other activities

According to Article XX of the Constitution, "*Regions may be established in conformity with the requirements of this Constitution, comprising Member Organizations so desiring within a geographical area to be defined from time to time by the WSC*". At present, there are five Regions in WOSM: Africa, Arab, Asia-Pacific, Europe and Interamerica.

Each Region holds a Regional Conference every three years, plus several Regional Committee meetings annually and other regional activities. The next Regional Conferences will be held in 2025.

## 7. LIAISON ROLES WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

The WSC usually appoints members or representatives to liaise with external partners. These include the World Scout Foundation, WAGGGS, KISC, as well as other non-Scout organisations.

### 7.1. Organisations holding Consultative Status with the WSC

A number of organisations have been granted Consultative Status by the WSC in the past. These include:

- Council of Protestants in Guiding and Scouting (CPGS),
- International Link of Orthodox Christian Scouts (DESMOS),
- International Catholic Conference of Scouting (ICCS),
- International Scout and Guide Fellowship (ISGF),
- International Forum for Jewish Scouts (IFJS),
- International Union of Muslim Scouts (IUMS),
- World Buddhist Scout Council (WBSC), and
- World Scout Parliamentary Union (WSPU).

At the beginning of each WSC mandate, the status of these organisations is reviewed in line with the [criteria for granting consultative status](#) with the WSC. Members of the WSC may be asked to serve in a liaison role with these organizations and attend their conferences and meetings. The specific function of the WSC member may vary from one organisation to another, depending on the organisation's own statutes.



## **8. SPECIAL TASKS**

These depend on needs arising from the WSC's work.



## WORLD SCOUT COMMITTEE MEMBER SUGGESTED PROFILE

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According to [Article XIII.1 of the World Constitution](#), members of the WSC "...shall consider the interests of the Movement as a whole and shall neither consider themselves, nor be considered as representing any particular member Organization or Region".

This means that candidates for the WSC must:

- comply with the [WOSM Code of Conduct for Elections](#) as a candidate,
- comply with WOSM's [Safe from Harm](#) requirements and abide by WOSM's [Code of Conduct](#), when elected
- be registered as a member of WOSM, in line with [Resolution 1999-07](#), and be nominated by a WOSM Member Organization,
- have a strong commitment to Scouting, coupled with an understanding of, and exposure to World Scouting,
- understand the next [Strategy for Scouting](#) to be capable and willing to address with creativity and determination challenges facing World Scouting; to be able to motivate and inspire fellow WSC members and other leaders in World Scouting to constructive and positive action in carrying out the Mission,
- be in good health and able to travel to at least two WSC meetings a year and other international (Scout) events where their specific functions would require their presence,
- accept a fairly extensive commitment of time, and be able to react regularly to papers, reports and correspondence,
- be reliable in meeting responsibilities and deadlines,
- be motivated to act with other members of the WSC to serve, the interests of WOSM in fulfilling its Mission and Vision in a personal, non-partisan spirit, rather than for reasons of personal ambition or prestige,
- be resolute and non-partisan in making decisions, and tolerant in carrying them out,
- have the courage to recommend what is right, even if that choice may not be popular,
- be prepared to exercise governance/oversight and make appointments for operational roles,
- be prepared to review and decide on recommendations of sanctions proposed by the Ethics Committee and in line with the [WOSM Complaints Policy](#),
- be sensitive to, and experienced in intercultural relations, handling concerns and opinions of others with respect,
- be able to work in an intergenerational context and encourage the full participation of young people in all levels of WOSM decision-making,
- be able to communicate either in English or French,
- possess independent judgment,
- be ready to work with team spirit to build conditions that promote unity and harmony among members of the WSC,
- be fully aware of the ethical and professional responsibilities that membership of the WSC implies for WOSM internally and externally,
- be inspired in their decisions and actions by the principles and values of Scouting at all times.

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